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Message Text

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22
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05

AGR-05 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00

USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04

SIL-01 OMB-01 OIC-02 IO-13 /106 W
---------- 017380
R 161705Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5558
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O.11652: N/A
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TAGS: EAGR, EAID, UK

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SUBJECT: THIRD MEETING OF CGFPI

REF: STATE 225558

1. GEORGE THOM, HEAD, FAO DEPARTMENT, OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY, WILL BE UK DELEGATE TO THIRD MEETING OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP FOR FOOD PRODUCTION AND INVESTMENT (CGFPI) IN MANILA. WE PROVIDED HIM WITH AIDE MEMOIRE CONTAINING U.S. POSITION ON SUBJECT MEETING AS PER REFTEL SEPTEMBER 15. THOM STATED THAT OUR POSITION WAS NOT UNEXPECTED AND THAT HE FULLY UNDERSTANDS OUR HOPEFUL, RATHER ENCOURAGING LINE IN LIGHT OF OUR DESIRE TO FIND A USEFUL ROLE FOR CGFPI TO PLAY.

2. THOM STATED THAT UK'S POSITION ON CGFPI WILL NOT BE VERY POSITIVE. UK IS NOT CONVINCED CGFPI HAS "A UNIQUE ROLE" TO PLAY NOR THAT IT HAS YET DEMONSTRATED IT CAN MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION. FEELING WITHIN ODM IS THAT CGFPI ACTIVITIES CAN BE DONE BETTER BY FAO AND IBRD. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE OF ITS RESEARCH FUNCTION, WHICH HAS TO RELY ON THESE ORGANIZATIONS AT ANY RATE.

3. THOM ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAS AN OPEN MIND ON WHETHER CGFPI SHOULD CONTINUE OR NOT. IF CONCENSUS DEVELOPS THAT IT DOES NOT HAVE UNIQUE ROLE TO PLAY, THEN UK WILL SUPPORT WINDING UP THE GROUP. ON THE OTHER HAND, UK WOULD ALSO SUPPORT A MAJORITY DECISION TO LET IT CARRY ON FOR ANOTHER YEAR. THOM SAID HE WISHED HE COULD BE MORE POSITIVE IN STATING UK POSITION ON CGFPI, BUT THAT REALITIES OF THE SITUATION DICTATED DETACHED, RATHER NEGATIVE POSITION AT UPCOMING MEETING. HE SAID HE FOUND IT DIFFICULT NOT TO BE NEGATIVE
AS IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO JUDGE CGFPI'S EFFECTIVENESS. HE ADDED THAT IN ANY CASE, ODM HAS ALWAYS FELT THAT IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT WFC CALLED FOR CREATION OF NEW ORGANIZATIONS AND THAT IT MIGHT BE A USEFUL PRECEDENT TO ACTUALLY CLOSE ONE DOWN.

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TAGS: EAGR, EAID, UK, US, (THOM, GEORGE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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